

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABU DH 03339 041028Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04
/109 W

-----051785 041031Z /10/46

R 011345Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7000
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT BAGHDAD
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE D

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 3339
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT ADD EB TAGS SUBJ)
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PDEV, MPLO, TC
SUBJ: UAE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS CANCELLED BECAUSE
OF ARAB WORLD DISARRAY

1. SUMMARY: UAE PRESENTIAL COURT ANNOUNCED EVENING OF NOV 30
THAT MILITARY PARADE AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS LONG PLANNED
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FOR NATIONAL DAY ANNIVERARY DEC 2 HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. REASON
FOR CANCELLATION WAS GIVEN AS "DELICATE STAGE" THROUGH WHICH
ARAB WORLD IS CURRENTLY PASSING. CANCELLATION OF EXPENSIVE
AND ELABORATE CELEBRATIONS HAS LED TO SPECULATION TGET OTHER
MOTIVES, INCLUDING THREAT TO ZAYID'S LIFE AND INTER-EMIRATE
SQUABBLES OVER BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS, REALLY LAY BEHIND UAE ACTION.
END SUMMARY END CONFIDENTIAL.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FULL TEXT OF UAE ANNOUNCEMENT (EMBASSY TRANSLATION) READS: QTE: THE ARAB WORLD IS PASSING AT THE PRESENT TIME THROUGH A DELICATE AND DECISIVE STAGE IN THE HISTORY OF ITS STRUGGLE. THIS MATTER HAS POLARIZED (SIC) THE ATTENTION OF ALL OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS. THE UAE--PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT, AND PEOPLE--WHILE FOLLOWING THESE EVENTS CLOSELY ARE KEEN TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES ENTIRELY AT THIS TIME TO STRENGTHENING THE ARAB RANKS SO AS TO SAFEGUARD THE ARAB CAUSE AND TO DIRECT THEIR EFFORTS TO THIS GREAT OBJECTIVE. THEREFORE, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO CANCEL

THE MILITARY PARADE AND CELEBRATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIXTH NATIONAL DAY OF THE UAE IN THE HOPE THAT GOD WILL AID US AND OUR ARAB NATION TO OVERCOME THESE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO ACHIEVE THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOR WHICH IT IS STRIVING. END QTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANCELLATION OF MILITARY PARADE WAS UNEXPECTED, AT THAT SAME MORNING TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING ORDERED FROM FRANCE THIS SPRING) HAD BEEN STILL PRACTICING MARH PAST BELOW OUR WINDOWS. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND FROM OFFICIAL IN MFA CULTURAL AFFAIRS SECTION THAT DECISION MAY HAVE BEEN DAY OR MORE IN MAKING. INCLUDED IN CANCELLATIONS WERE INVITATIONS TO FOLK LORE GROUPS FROM SEVERAL ARAB AND OTHER MIDEASTERN COUNTRIES, FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, AND OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS AMONG WHOM WAS FRENCH MINDEF BOURGES.

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4. CANCELLATION HAS OF COURSE LED TO SPECULATION AS TO WHETHER RATIONALE GIVEN IN OFFICIAL STATEMENT WAS REAL ONE OR MERELY PRETEXT. CANCELLATION WOULD ENABLE SHAIKH ZAYID AND OTHER UAE LEADERS TURN FULL ENERGIES TO FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB WORLD. IT WOULD ALSO, AS SORT OF SHOCK TREATMENT, HELP TO CONVEY TO EMIRIANS AND TO THEIR NEIGHBORS SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH UAE LEADERS VIEW CURRENT SPLIT IN ARAB WORLD. ON OTHER HAND, IT IS AN EXPENSIVE GESTURE (ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS PUTS EXPENDITURES ON CELEBRATIONS AT SOME TENMILLION DOLLARS) AND LEAVES MANY OBSERVERS WITH IMPRESSION UAEG HAS ACTED IN UNSEEMLY HASTY AND ALMOST PANICKY FASHION TO EVENTS WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE RELATIVELY FAR FROM ITS OWN SHORES. WE ARE TOLD ONLY OTHER TIME IN PAST SIX YEARS WHEN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS WERE FOREGONE WAS DECEMBER 1973 IN WAKE OF OCTOBER ARAB-ISREAL WAR.

5. NO ONE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO YET CAN OFFER ANY FURTHER INSIGHT INTO REASON FOR CANCELLATION ALTHOUGH SOME OTHER THEORIES HAVE BEEN PUT FORTH TO EXPLAIN UAEG ACTION. WE NOTE THESE HERE WITH CAVEAT THAT WE ARE NOT ABLE AT THIS TIME TO EVALUATE THEM THEM MEANINGFULLY. ONE THEORY IS THAT GOVERNMENT'S ACTION WAS PROMPTED BY FEAR OF AN ATTEMPT ON ZAYID'S LIFE OR THAT OF OTHER DIGNITARIES WHILE THEY SIT WATCHING PARADE, POSSIBLY BY FOLLOWERS

OF PALESTINIAN EXTREMIST LEADER ABU NIDAL IN RETALIATIONS FOR RECENT
EXECUTION OF MURDERER OF SAIF BHUBASH. IN SUPPORT OF THIS THEORY
WE NOTE EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WHICH HAVE PRECEDED PARADE
THIS YEAR, INCLUDING CAREFUL SCREENING OF RESIDENTS OF APARTMENT
BUILDINGS OVERLOOKING REVIEWING STAND AND RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR
VISITORS DURING PARADE. A SECOND THEORY CENTERS ON ZAYID'S IRRI-
TATION WITH CONTINUING REFUSAL OF RULER OF DUBAY SHAIKH RASHID TO
MAKE GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO FEDERAL BUDGET. BY CANCELLING PARADE
AND OTHER FESTIVITIES ZAYID IS ATTEMPTING TO CONVEY TO OTHER UAE
RULERS THAT HE CONSIDERS IT UNSUITABLE AT THIS TIME FOR UAE TO
CELEBRATE "NATIONAL" DAY OF COUNTRY WHICH STILL HAS FAR TO GO TO
BECOME A "NATION".
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712107/aaaadmsw.tel
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/89e95dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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